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66th YEAR VOLUME 66 NUMBER 51 RICHMOND, VA., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1916.—TEN PAGES. WEATHER Page 4 —FAIR PRICE, 2 CENTS

SENATE TO RESUME TAXATION INQUIRY

Committee Will Consider To-Night Increase on Telegraph and Telephone Companies.

EARLY VOTE ON COLLEGE BILL

Measure Providing for Co-Ordinate Institution for Women Is Slated for Debate Thursday.

Senate tax students will turn their attention to-night to telegraph and telephone companies for the purpose of examining into the ability of these corporations to bear a slightly increased tax burden. Their brother of the steam and electric transportation field have already been studied by the Finance Committee for tax increases that are estimated to yield the State additional revenues of more than \$200,000 annually. It is regarded as more than likely that proportionate tax increases will be recommended by the committee on the revenues of telephone and telegraph companies also.

Representatives of these corporations will be given a hearing to-night by the Senate Finance Committee on Finance in the State Corporation Commission court room. At the same time the committee will hear also from companies operating in this State fruit, refrigerator, and other special cases. A bill passed by the Senate in 1915, bringing the rolling stock of these companies under taxation, was found to be inoperative, and an effort will be made by the present session to correct the defects of the measure on the statute books and impose on these interests their proper share of taxation. A new bill to this end has been introduced at the instance of the State Corporation Commission.

RATIFY MAPP BILL IN SENATE THIS WEEK

This week will see the ratification of the Mapp bill in the Senate and the shifting of the prohibition spotlight to the House. The bill is expected to reach a final vote in the Senate some time tomorrow. The passage is certain. The bill will be referred on the other side of the Capitol to the House Committee on Moral and Social Welfare, of which Delegate Jordan, of Pulaski, is chairman. This committee will lose no time in reporting the measure, and it will probably be on the House calendar by the end of the week.

The crystallization of the General Assembly's sentiment on the prohibition subject of taxation has resulted in a clearing of the fiscal situation, enabling the framers of the appropriation bill to put in several productive sessions. Chairman Brewer, of the House Appropriations Committee, was of the opinion to-day that the general bill appropriating the estimated revenues of the Commonwealth for the years 1916 and 1917, will be ready for introduction in the House probably by Thursday.

CO-ORDINATE COLLEGE COMES UP THURSDAY

Unless there is a hitch in the plans of opposing leaders, the co-ordinate college bill will come up as a special order in the House on Thursday—probably reaching a vote on the same day. Around this bill centers what is in many respects the most picturesque fight of the session. On no bill before the present General Assembly is the sentiment so divided.

Among the advocates of the co-ordinate college bill are numbered the leading men in the lower house. The members are sponsors for the bill as patrons, the list including Speaker Houston and Floor Leader Willis.

Counting to-day, the General Assembly of 1916 has eighteen more working days in which to dispose of its business. Already it is apparent that a large number of bills will go to their final fate by the end of the session. The time in which to consider them is in such a position that there will be ample opportunity for their consideration between now and the end of the session.

BUSINESS IS IN GOOD SHAPE FOR ACTION

While the congestion of the calendars is becoming marked, the business of the two houses is probably in better shape than it was at this period of any session in recent years. The score of more measures of the first magnitude that will stand out as the big work of the session of 1916 have each been given a vote or are in such a position that there will be ample opportunity for their consideration between now and the end of the session.

THERE HAS BEEN A MARKED TENDENCY

at the present session to avoid tying up the machinery of legislation with the consideration of subjects involving a large amount of attention and research. Thus, with the exception of the passage in the House of the automobile tax bill, there has been no attempt to work out a general readjustment of the road laws. This arduous task bids fair to be delegated to a special commission, which works in vacation. Two resolutions having this for their object have been introduced in the House.

WORKINGMEN'S COMPENSATION DEFERS COMMISSION

Similarly, both houses avoided tonight on the subject of workingmen's compensation laws, by voting for a joint commission charged with the duty of presenting a bill adapted to Virginia conditions at the next session. Had the present session attempted to deal with this question, it would undoubtedly have been prevented from dealing with other measures of perhaps more immediate importance.

THE TENDENCY TO MAKE GREATER USE

of legislative commissions is evidenced further by the Browning resolution appointing a joint commission to make a study of the entire machinery of State government, with the view of recommending economies in administration to the next General Assembly.

Jean Crones Taunts Police of New York

Poisoned-Soup Chef Tells Them in Note They Are Not Clever Enough to Catch Him.

NEW YORK, February 20.—A penciled note, purporting to have been written last night, and dropped without envelope or stamp into a mail box at the Grand Central Station here by Jean Crones, the fugitive chef accused of having attempted to poison the guests at a dinner in honor of Archbishop Mundelein, in Chicago, was received by the police to-day. The note said Crones was "sorry to be obliged to leave the good city of New York for my safety's sake," but added: "You're really not clever at all. Your detectives are looking for me, and no one can catch me."

The note, addressed to the "Chief of Police, New York," said also that Crones was at the Grand Central Station at 11:35 o'clock last night, and concluded with the sentence, "thanks for your kindness."

It was midnight when the note was received at the post-office, and attracted the attention of a clerk, who turned it over to the police.

Although the Grand Central Station had been under surveillance several days, the police there declared they had not seen Crones or any one resembling him. They said, however, there was no doubt in their minds that Crones was the author of the note.

HOW NAVY IS KEPT UP

Great Britain Has More Than Million Persons Engaged in Various Branches of Sea Force.

LONDON, February 20.—The magnitude of the work going on in the navy is shown in a letter from the admiralty to Sir Gilbert Parker, answering his inquiry in the House of Commons on the number of people engaged in all time-consuming tasks of the navy and work.

The letter states that the navy proper had 146,000 officers and men when the war broke out, which number has now increased to 320,000, with the authority granted for a further increase to 350,000 officers and men, besides 57,000 men engaged in work at royal dockyards and other naval establishments, and several times that number on admiralty work under contract and sub-contract.

Besides these, the letter specified men engaged in getting coal for the fleet, dockside workers and civilian crews of oilers, mine sweepers, supply ships, etc., and in addition men and women engaged in making clothing and preparing food for the fleet.

Thomas J. MacNamara, financial secretary of the admiralty, adds:

"If asked to put the matter in a sentence, I should say that for every man in the navy, of whom there are something like 300,000, there are certainly two persons, and possibly even three, at work on ship construction, repairing and contributing to the general efficiency and fighting ability of the fleet."

PEACE ADVOCATES MEET

Conference for Continuous Mediation Is Outgrowth of Henry Ford's Expedition.

STOCKHOLM, February 20.—An unofficial meeting of the neutral conference for continuous mediation, the outgrowth of the Henry Ford peace expedition, was held here yesterday. Nikolaus Gjesvick, professor of international law at the University of Kristiania, and legal adviser on international law of the Nobel Institute, spoke at length on his interpretation of the causes of war.

It was announced that Switzerland had elected eleven delegates to the neutral conference.

FRENCH STEAMER SUNK

Memphis Is Destroyed by Austrian Submarine Off Port of Durazzo.

PARIS, February 20.—The French steamship Memphis has been sunk by an Austrian submarine off Durazzo, according to a Vienna dispatch.

The French steamship Memphis was a vessel of 2,352 tons, built at Dundee in 1911, and owned by the Messageries Maritimes, of Paris. Her port of registry was Marseilles. The last mention of her in the maritime registers was on January 10, when she was at Marseilles.

PRESIDENT TO SPEAK

On Program for Exercises in Celebration of 100th Anniversary of American Bible Society.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] NEW YORK, February 20.—President Wilson will speak during the ceremonies commemorative of the one hundredth anniversary of the American Bible Society, which begins in Washington on May 8. Celebrations are being planned for more than forty large cities.

FIVE PERSONS ARE KILLED

North Coast Limited Crashes Into Rear End of Northern Pacific and Burlington Train.

SPOKANE, WASH., February 20.—Five persons were killed and six injured to-day when a Northern Pacific passenger train, known as the North Coast Limited, eastbound, crashed into the rear end of a Northern Pacific and Burlington train, also eastbound, at Cheney, Wash., seventeen miles from Spokane.

REPUBLICANS USE SUBMARINE ISSUE

They Are Seeking to Make Political Capital Out of Relations With Germany.

ADMINISTRATION PREPARED

Democratic Senators This Week Will Meet Efforts Put Forth by Opposition.

WASHINGTON, February 20.—Discussion from an administration viewpoint of the submarine issue with Germany will be undertaken in the Senate this week. Democrats, led by Senator Stone, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, have determined to meet what they term an effort on the part of Republican Senators to make a partisan issue of the situation that has arisen since the German admiralty's determination to sink all enemy merchant ships, whether armed for offense or defense.

Senators Sterling and Lodge, Republicans, discussed the subject last week, urging that for the United States to yield to the right of Germany to sink unarmed merchant ships would be an unjustified act and a step toward war. Senator Stone said he would answer some of the arguments made by the Republicans, but declared the situation was one of such grave importance that it should not be debated in the Senate in a partisan way. The Missouri Senator has conferred with President Wilson and Secretary Lansing, and his views are awaited with interest by members of both houses, who do not conceal their belief that the nation is facing the greatest diplomatic crisis since the beginning of the European war.

MEXICAN AFFAIRS TO BE AIDED IN SENATE

Mexican affairs also are to be aided again in the Senate, Republican Senators planning to attack the President's report on Senator Fall's resolution asking for information concerning the Carranza government. Senator Fall has expressed disappointment because the President and Secretary Lansing did not disclose diplomatic correspondence relating to political conditions in Mexico which led up to the recognition of Carranza. In the Foreign Relations Committee on Wednesday the nomination of Henry Prather Fletcher as ambassador to Mexico will be considered, and administration Senators propose to demand a vote on a motion to recommend his confirmation to the Senate. The action on the nomination has been held up pending the President's Mexican report. There has been no opposition, even from Republican sources, to Mr. Fletcher personally, and the general opinion at the Capitol is that his nomination will be confirmed before the end of the week.

IMPORTANT MEASURES WILL BE CONSIDERED

Other important matters to occupy attention of the Senate branch during the week will be the Haitian treaty, a resolution to direct congressional investigation into charges of inefficiency of the army aviation service, continuation of the inquiry into the fitness of Louis D. Brandeis for the Supreme Court, water-power legislation, and further inquiry into the alleged effort of American interests to monopolize the steel output in Yucatan.

In both houses the preparedness program will be urged in committees which are framing the army and navy bills. There is general satisfaction among administration leaders over the progress that is being made, and the apparent disappearance of much of the early opposition to the necessity for a reasonable plan of national defense.

The Kitchen resolution to repeal the free-sugar clause of the Underwood-Simmons tariff law may be reached late this week in the House. The Democrats already have notified Majority Leader Kitchin that they will not be bound by the caucus decision to support the measure, when a vote is taken. Other Democrats may join the "insurgent" ranks, it is said. As yet no attempt has been made by the opposition to perfect an organization, and it is probable that they will do no more than speak and vote against it individually. Majority leaders aver that adoption of the resolution in the House is assured.

POST-OFFICE APPROPRIATION WILL PASS EARLY IN WEEK

The post-office appropriation bill will be passed early this week. The space system of railway pay and employee's guaranty-fund clauses are expected to be adopted approximately as drawn by the committee.

If consideration of the free-sugar resolution does not follow passage of the post-office bill, the Burnett immigration bill will be taken up instead. Representative Sabath and others opposed to the literacy test will wage a determined fight on the floor against the measure. The Asiatic excludable in the Immigration Committee, and its introducer, Representative Baker, of California, hopes to have it reported.

OIL TANKER SINKS

Carzo Will Be Dumped Into Barges and Vessel Raised and Put Into Dry Dock.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] NEW YORK, February 20.—The big Standard Oil tanker John D. Archbold sunk on Red Hook Flats, off South Brooklyn, to-day, as a result of damages received in a collision yesterday with the British steamer Hova.

Owing to the shallow water in that part of the bay, the vessel's deck is just above water. Several oil barges are alongside, and tugs with powerful pumps are pumping the cargo oil into the barges.

The vessel will be raised and put into dry dock.

ANXIOUSLY AWAIT WORD FROM BERLIN

Officials Show Unconcealed Concern Over Probable Nature of German Reply.

TENSION AGAIN INCREASING

Lansing Denies Idea of Calling On Teutonic Diplomats to Stop Discussing Negotiations.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 20.—Tension is increasing in the situation between the United States and the central powers as a response is awaited from Berlin to the latest request of the American government for definite assurances regarding the conduct of submarine warfare. There were no new developments to-day, but in view of intimations from Teutonic diplomats and apparently significant news dispatches, officials are awaiting word from Berlin with unconcealed concern.

Indication of the attitude of the Berlin Foreign Office may be received tomorrow or Tuesday in confidential reports from Ambassador Gerard. Officials still hope that the official advice will not conform to the indications in the press dispatches that the German government is unilaterally opposed to modifying its proposed intentions to sink all merchant ships of the entire allies without warning after February 22.

Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, probably will have received a reply to his dispatch before the middle of the week. As the position of the United States was explained to the Austrian representative, Baron Erich Zweidinek, only yesterday, Vienna would hardly be heard from for at least a week.

U. S. MUST QUICKLY FORMULATE POLICY

It is realized in official quarters that whatever policy the United States decides to pursue will have to be formulated quickly. Only nine days remain before commanders of German and Austrian submarines will begin to put their new instructions into effect, unless the central powers decide to postpone the order pending the outcome of negotiations with the United States.

Secretary Lansing to-day denied reports that he contemplated calling on high Teutonic diplomats to discontinue the giving out of information concerning diplomatic negotiations. He said there was no change in his official or personal relations with Count von Bernstorff or Baron Zweidinek.

It has been known for some time that administration officials objected to information regarding diplomatic negotiations, about which the State Department was silent, reaching the public apparently through the diplomatic sources. It is said at the State Department that unless diplomats stop divulging information, the department may take into consideration the question of having them withdrawn, although so far such action is not actually contemplated.

SURPRISED AT ACTION OF VON BERNSTORFF

Officials to-day recalled that during the Lusitania negotiations surprise was expressed in an official note by this government that Count von Bernstorff should have resorted to the newspapers to address the people of the United States. This was the warning advertisement published by the German Embassy before the Lusitania sailed. It was referred to in Secretary Bryan's first Lusitania note of May 13 as a "surprising irregularity."

The wide divergence of views between the German and Austrian decrees and the instructions sent to American ambassadors, ministers and consular officers regarding conduct of submarine warfare, created a condition for which no present solution is seen by administration officials.

SITUATION SUMMARIZED BY COMPETENT AUTHORITY

In the language of a competent authority, the situation was summarized as follows:

"Germany has given notice substantially that she will sink armed merchantmen without warning. This government thinks that whether a merchantman is armed for defense only or armed in the sense implied by Germany is a question of fact and, therefore, that offensive armament cannot be assumed. This government has sent instructions to its ambassadors and ministers, and these instructions make no distinction as between merchantmen. We regard liners, passenger ships, freight-carrying ships, and even tramps as entitled to all the obligations due from belligerents and neutrals under international law. This attitude of ours has never been changed. Expressions to the effect that the law 'might be changed' or new regulations made, did not, because they could not, change international law. The United States alone could not suggest a law, even if it had made suggestions which are not now international law. Neither the German government nor any other had a right to assume that any suggestion by the United States would undertake to change international law."

Officials are not prepared to say that a middle ground may not be suggested, if there is such suggestion, they will consider it. The reply of the German government to the expression of views given by the United States last week may change the situation.

"It might materially modify the relations of the two countries to the controversy," was the way the administration authority put it.

MONITIONS PLANT DESTROYED

Monitions Plant Destroyed.

MONCTON, N. B., February 20.—The plant of the Record Foundry, where war munitions were manufactured, was destroyed by fire late to-night.

GERMAN AIR RAID ON BRITISH COAST

Four Seaplanes Drop Number of Bombs on Lowestoft and Walmer.

ESCAPE PURSUIT BY AIRMEN

Total Casualties, Two Men and One Boy Killed and Considerable Material Damage.

LONDON, February 20.—Four German seaplanes to-day made a raid over the east and southeast coasts of England, according to an official announcement made this evening. The total casualties are given as two men and one boy killed and one marine wounded. Considerable material damage was done.

The official communication says: "Four German seaplanes made a raid over the east and southeast coasts at noon to-day.

"The first raiders, two biplanes, appeared over Lowestoft at 10:55 A. M. and circled over the south side of the town for five minutes and dropped bombs. In about five minutes they rose to a great height and seemingly vanished. At 11:10 A. M. the two seaplanes were again over the town, and then vanished eastward again.

"Altogether seventeen small high-explosive bombs were dropped. There were no casualties. Considerable damage was caused to the outbuildings of a restaurant and to two dwelling-houses. Two naval seaplanes went up at 11:05 A. M. and pursued the raiders, but without result.

LAST RAIDERS MAKES STRAIGHT FOR WALMER

"Meanwhile, two other German seaplanes were making for the Kentish coast. The first passed over the Kentish coast, dropping bombs in that vicinity at 11:20 A. M. The last raider made straight for Walmer, reaching that town at 11:27 A. M., flying at less than 2,500 feet, it dropped six bombs, and turned sharply to the east.

"Two of the bombs that fell destroyed roofs and broke windows in the neighborhood of the town. One fell close to a church, blowing in the windows as the congregation was singing 'Te Deum.' A third bomb fell on a roadway running along the beach, killing one civilian and injuring one marine.

"The total casualties were two men and one boy killed and one marine injured.

"Two of our aeroplanes, which went up from Dover pursued the raiders, but apparently could not overtake him."

NOT VERY SERIOUS DAMAGE AT LOWESTOFT

LOWESTOFT, February 20.—The damage done here by the air raiders was not very serious. One bomb demolished the corrugated roof of a saw-mill; another unroofed a private house; the third smashed the windows of a hotel, while a fourth smashed the window of a church, without injuring any of the worshippers.

Another bomb fell squarely into a bedroom of a workman's house, but injured nobody. Several bombs fell harmlessly into gardens and vacant lots.

In view of the distance of Lowestoft from the nearest hostile aviation base, it is recalled here that a German newspaper recently described a new arrangement whereby a submarine was combined with an aeroplane, the submarine acting as a submersible hangar, from which a small seaplane could operate, after being conveyed within suitable distance of its object.

The British Methodist Chapel was missed only a few yards by a bomb. The concussion from the missile which passed through the roof of an adjacent house, smashed many of the chapel windows. The morning service had just begun when a shower of glass and splinters fell on the congregation. No one was injured, however, except a man whose finger was cut. The small congregation crowded into the vestry until the danger was passed.

The streets of Lowestoft were crowded with church-goers at the time of the raid, but there was far more curiosity among them than panic.

MAN AND BOY KILLED BY BOMBS AT WALMER

WALMER, February 20.—The residents of Walmer were startled this morning by a series of loud explosions. The day was bright and clear, and many persons rushed to points of advantage in time to see a small aeroplane at an altitude of perhaps 1,000 feet.

Four bombs were dropped in a cluster, and landed within a circle of 100 yards, killing a man and a boy.

Two British airmen were observed in the air almost immediately after the dropping of the bombs, but the raider made his escape.

The raider was over the town not more than a minute. There was a momentary stoppage of the service in a church near which bombs fell. Many members of the congregation left the building, but the service was resumed and carried through.

One of the victims was a paper boy on his rounds with the Sunday newspapers. He was killed instantly. Another victim was a youth of nineteen, who has not yet been identified.

Some of the bombs fell in the roadway, making large holes. The whole affair was over so quickly that most of the people hardly realized what had happened. Some of those in the church said that the building was rocked with the concussion. The explosion of the bombs was heard all over Walmer, Deal and the surrounding district, but there was no panic.

A dramatic story of the narrow escape of a boat which had just taken a pilot aboard at Walmer was told by the occupants of the boat. Three bombs fell into the sea directly in the wake of the boat, causing a tremendous upheaval of the water.

Diabekr is Next Russian Objective

THE Russian army which captured Erzerum in Armenia, is endeavoring to cut off the retreat of the Turks, who are retreating with as much speed as possible. Dispatches from Petrograd report the capture of the towns of Mush and Achar, to the south, heavy fighting preceding their taking by storm. The next objective of the southern wing of the Russian army is Diabekr, which lies within striking distance of the Bagdad railway. This line would open up the road for the Russians into Syria.

Along the Black Sea Coast, Sea Forces Co-Operate With Troops on Land.

Along the Black Sea coast Russian warships are pounding at the Turkish batteries and harassing the retreating troops. The northern wing of the Russian army has captured the town of Vidie, and is driving the Turks back in the direction of Gumish Khanish, which is on the road to Trebizond, while large Russian forces are moving westward from Erzerum, with the object of cutting off these Turkish troops before they can reach a new line of defense.

PLAN OF AIDING BELGIUM TO FEED HERSELF FAILS

Scheme Was to Rehabilitate Industries of Country Under Control of American Commission.

GERMANS REFUSE GUARANTEES

Send No Reply to Request for Promise That Raw Materials and Manufactured Goods Will Not Be Seized by Occupying Armies.

LONDON, February 20.—The plan of aiding Belgium to feed herself by rehabilitating the industries of the country under control of the American Commission for Relief in Belgium has failed, according to a letter written by Sir Edward Grey, the British Foreign Secretary, to Mr. Hymans, the Belgian minister here, because the Germans thus far have failed to reply to the request for guarantees that raw materials and manufactured goods will not be seized by the occupying armies.

The American Relief Commission some time ago proposed that certain kinds of non-contraband raw materials should be permitted to pass through the British blockade into Belgium, goods manufactured from them to be re-exported. It was proposed that the balance of trade thus created in favor of Belgium should be invested in food, thus putting the population as far as possible upon a self-paying basis, and at the same time checking the growing demoralization due to unemployment.

MEMORANDUM REFERRED TO BY SIR EDWARD GREY

The memorandum referred to by Sir Edward Grey is a part as follows:

"It is understood that there is a strong feeling among the Belgians that the industrial distress of Belgium is to be attributed solely to the action of the allied governments in preventing imports, and it is often contended that this action does not appreciably harm Germany, while it involves a most painful loss to the people of our ally."

The memorandum also explains that the British government cannot agree that Belgium industry can be maintained in the present circumstances without a very considerable benefit to Great Britain's enemies, and without involving a postponement of Belgian independence. But the government, it says, is fully impressed with the necessity of supporting the Belgian population. For this reason it has supported the Commission for Relief in Belgium, and permitted export trade from Belgium under certain conditions. Also for this reason, the memorandum adds, the government some months ago asserted its willingness to consider proposals for the importation of raw materials into Belgium through the agency and under the guarantees of the relief commission.

NO REPLY OF ANY KIND RECEIVED FROM GERMANS

The undertakings demanded from the Germans in connection with this scheme," the memorandum continues, "were simple. They were free to import raw materials and the export of manufactured goods made from such materials, through the relief commission. They were to respect and make free from all embargo or requisition stocks of similar raw materials or manufactured goods still remaining in the country. They were, in general, to treat any factory thus supplied by the commission as enjoying the same privileges and immunities as one of the commission's warehouses."

BRITISH POSITION STORMED BY GERMANS

BERLIN, February 20 (via wireless to Saville).—A British position 3.50 yards long on the Yser Canal, north of Ypres, has been stormed by German troops, army headquarters announced to-day. British attempts to retake the trenches failed.

South of Loos the British advanced to the edge of one of the German mine craters.

The text of the statement follows:

"Western theater of war: On the Yser Canal, north of Ypres, an English position 350 meters long was stormed by the Germans. All the English attempts to retake the trenches by night hand-grenade attacks failed. The Germans took twenty prisoners."

"South of Loos, in lively engagements, the enemy advanced to the edge of one of the German mine craters."

"North of Houtbierne, to the north of Albert, the Germans obtained a minor success in a night engagement, taking several English prisoners."

"In an air fight east of Prouva, an

ERZERUM CAPTORS TRYING TO CUT OFF RETREAT OF TURKS

Main Armies May Be Surrounded in Rapid Russian Offensive.

PRESSING ADVANTAGE GAINED ON BOTH FLANKS

Along Black Sea Coast, Sea Forces Co-Operate With Troops on Land.

PUSH ON TO MUSH AND KOPH

Next Objective Is Diabekr, Within Striking Distance of Bagdad Railway.

PETROGRAD, February 20 (via London).—The Russians are pressing the advantage gained at Erzerum on both flanks. On the right, along the Black Sea coast, by the co-operation of the sea and land forces they are driving the Turks from one position after another to the east of Trebizond, and it is expected that active operations against that important seaport will not be long deferred.

In the last two days the Russians have occupied Vidie (Avidie), and pressed forward ten or twelve miles eastward. The fleet has destroyed in succession several shore batteries which might have been of assistance to the Turks, and by keeping well in advance of the land forces and by destroying bridges over several streams in the path of the retreating Turks has rendered their retreat more difficult. "The fleet has been working so close to the shore that the warships have been reached by rifle fire from the Turkish troops, while on the other hand, the ships have spread confusion in the ranks of the Turks by dropping shells among them."

On the left flank, after the occupation of Koph, the Russians pushed on to Mush and Achar, the latter on the north shore of Lake Van. From Koph to Mush, sixty miles over mountain roads, they fought several battles, and occupied Mush by storm.

DIABEKER IS NEXT OBJECTIVE OF RUSSIANS

"The Turks fled southward to Diabekr, the next objective of the Russian army. Once in possession of Diabekr, it is only a day's march to the Bagdad Railway, the last remaining communication into Syria."

The rapid Russian offensive beyond Erzerum, it is believed here, makes it possible that the retreat of the Turkish corps operating along the Black Sea coast and of those troops who were active in the Mush district before the Russian occupation will be entirely cut off, and that the main Turkish armies will be surrounded. This fate has already overtaken the Thirty-fourth Division of the Tenth Corps, which was ordered from Orli to Erzerum before the fall of the fortress. As telephone communications between this group of Turkish forces and the main Turkish army had been entirely destroyed by the Russians, the Thirty-fourth Division marched serenely on to Erzerum without suspicion that the fortress was then about to surrender. These troops reached Erzerum from the northwest at the very moment that the Devedzina line of forts fell into Russian hands, and the army which they had come to assist was in full retreat.

The army which they had passed was instantly surrounded by Russian cavalry, and as they were completely surrounded, there was no alternative but to surrender with guns, equipment and artillery.

TURKISH CORPS ALMOST SURE OF BEING CAUGHT

It is regarded as almost inevitable that the Turkish corps retreating along the Black Sea coast under the destructive fire of the Russian fleet and the pressure of the Russian armies will be caught in the same sort of trap, as the Turkish troops falling back from Vidie to Gumish Khanish still have a great distance to go to the Russian troops which are advancing from Erzerum to cut them off.

On the Turkish right flank, where the Ninth Corps is operating, the Turks find themselves in the same precarious position, since all the roads of retreat to the north are gradually falling under Russian control. The retreat of the Turkish armies everywhere is impeded by deep snow, and the difficult character of the country. They are without food and lack war supplies, and there seems to be little possibility of their offering even temporary resistance of any strength to the Russian advance.

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